



February Update

Friends—

President Trump's administration, in its first days, has taken a flurry of actions that will raise energy costs for American consumers. It is also sowing chaos in climate work and harming rural and underserved communities. Among the early threats to energy efficiency efforts, the administration has issued (and partially and vaguely retracted) sweeping orders to pause many disbursements, including the disbursement of billions of dollars appropriated by Congress in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law. The administration has also issued some stop-work orders, put some agency staff on leave (especially those connected to diversity and community outreach initiatives), and taken down some websites.

States, communities, businesses, and nonprofits funded by the government to implement energy-saving programs are uncertain whether payments for this work will continue. This is slowing progress in saving households and businesses money on utility bills and reducing planet-warming pollution. Some of ACEEE's funding has been put on hold. We are working to defend vital initiatives and help states and communities ensure continued savings for their residents.

On a personal note, you may have seen that I will [step down](#) from my role as executive director late this year. Our board of directors is starting a search for my successor, and I'll update you here on that process in the coming months. I'm incredibly proud of the progress we have made in advancing energy efficiency in this country. Many opportunities and challenges are on the horizon, and I look forward to remaining engaged as new leadership grows ACEEE's work and impact further.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in our work.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

Efficiency Update

Although most of the Inflation Reduction Act and bipartisan infrastructure law grant funding has been obligated (legally committed to recipients), the new administration has paused many disbursements, and officials have suggested they will try to impound or claw some of it back. Programs, including the Home Energy Rebates, industrial demonstration projects, and vital funding for building energy codes, are currently in limbo.

As Republicans in Congress develop a reconciliation tax and spending bill, some would like to end tax incentives for electric vehicles, building efficiency, industrial innovation, and other clean energy work. Attempts to roll back vehicle and appliance standards are also starting. In the end, the fate of many of these programs and policies will be decided by narrow votes in Congress, in the courts, and future elections.

Our Latest Research



[States Can Revamp Efficiency Programs to Cut Emissions, Low-Income Households' Bills](#)

This report assesses efforts by states with energy efficiency resource standards to incorporate provisions or complementary policies that accomplish additional clean energy goals.

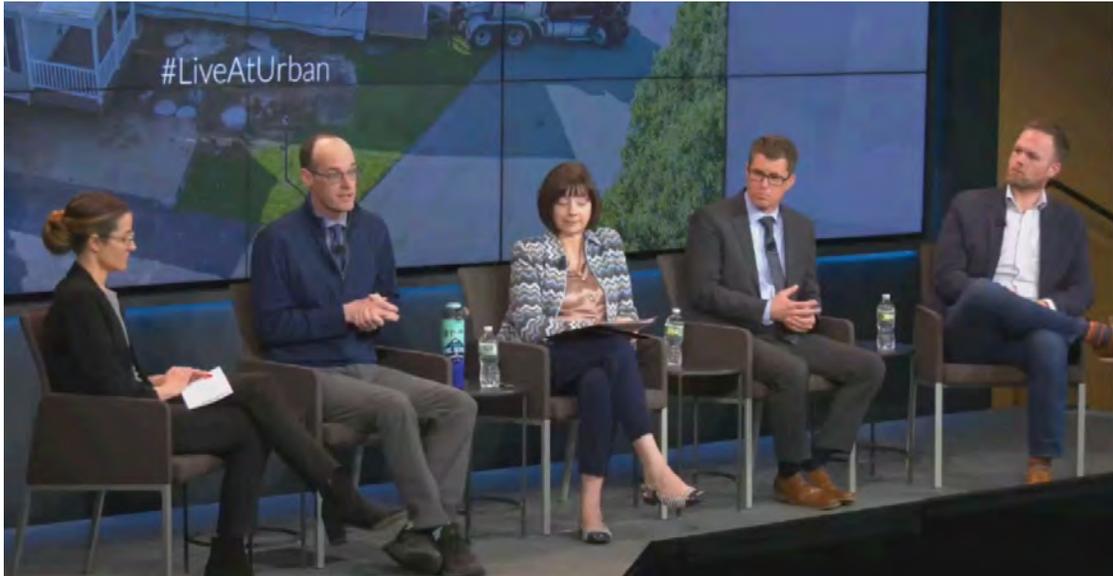


[45L and 25C Energy Efficiency Tax Credits Cut Household Costs](#)

Our analysis finds that two federal tax credits under threat in Congress are helping homeowners around the country save money on energy bills.

See all our recent [blog posts](#) and [press releases](#).

ACEEE in Action



Mark Kresowik, senior policy director, spoke about building climate-resilient housing at an [event](#) hosted by the Urban Institute this week.

What We're Reading

A few of our favorite media highlights from the past month:

- [Grist](#) featured ACEEE's report on next-generation energy efficiency resource standards in states.
- The [Associated Press](#) and [HuffPost](#) quoted ASAP executive director Andrew deLaski on threats to appliance and equipment standards.
- A [Canary Media](#) story on decarbonizing food and beverage production featured ACEEE research on industrial heat pumps.

Opportunities

- The Department of Energy's [American-Made Partnerships to Accelerate Training & Hiring for Geothermal Heat Pumps Prize](#) is a \$3 million prize competition designed to hire, certify, and train the current and next generation of geothermal heat pump workers. The deadline for competitors to submit a narrative describing their vision for building a sustainable pathway to training and hiring in their region is February 12.
- The U.S. Department of Energy's [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas](#) program will fund up to \$400 million for clean energy projects in rural and remote areas across the nation. Concept papers are due by February 27, and full applications are due by August 28.
- The Coalition for Green Capital's [Municipal Investment Fund](#) is an opportunity for ten communities to become the focus of concentrated investment and local economic development activities and receive up to \$2 million in grants. The application deadline is March 5.

Staff Update

Maggie Kelley Riggins joins us as director of community solutions. Maggie previously worked for the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, leading the organization’s buildings portfolio. She holds a bachelor of science in public policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



ACEEE on the road: Director emeritus Neal Elliott will speak at the Aspen Institute Winter Energy Forum on February 8 about the key role of energy efficiency in supporting the transition to an electrified economy while reducing strain on the grid and lowering costs for consumers.

Upcoming Events



March 4-6, Portland, OR

[Register Here](#)



July 16-18, Charlotte, NC

[Learn more](#)

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ACEEE is proud to earn a four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This is the highest possible rating, reflecting that our foundation, corporate, and donor funds are used responsibly and efficiently.

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ACEEE, 529 14th Street., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045
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